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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-18-2007

SPONSOR Rawson LAST UPDATED _____ HM _____

SHORT TITLE FULL FEDERAL FUNDING OF MEDICAID SB SJM 14

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY07 | FY08 | | |
| | NFI | | |
| | *Please see narrative | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM5

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files, Veterans' Services Department, Veteran's Administration, Library of Congress.

Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 14 urges Congress to fund all costs of medical care and attendant services for children of Vietnam veterans affected with level-III cases of Spina Bifida. Under Public Law 104-204, the 104th Congress acknowledged the correlation of Spina Bifida in children of parents exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Joint Memorial 14 has no fiscal implications at the state level.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In addition to acknowledging the relation of exposure to herbicide and Spina Bifida in the subsequent generation, the law authorized lifetime health services and disability payments paid monthly for these children. Health issues independent of Spina Bifida do not qualify for health services benefits under the federal legislation. Children affected with level-III Spina Bifida and

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recognized by the United States department of Veterans' Affairs number approximately two-hundred (200). Level-III sufferers have significant medical costs exceeding monthly federal disability stipends and many require hospice or attendant health-care services, appliances, and other treatments not covered under the current law.

Enactment of Senate Joint Memorial 14 would urge policymakers at the federal level to expand total benefits to a small, sub-set of already acknowledged and recognized disabled children of those exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If enacted, copies of Senate Joint Memorial 14 need to be distributed to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the chief clerks of the U.S. House and Senate, and to the U. S. department of Veterans' Affairs.

PD/mt:nt